

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177027
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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GENEVA FOR MBSMITH AND PHELAN, BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EPAP, JA

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: UPCOMING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN
-- TOKYO

1. TANABE OF JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON CALLED ON
ST. JOHN (CHIEF, EB/TEX) JULY 13 TO DISCUSS TIMING
AND AGENDA OF US/GOJ DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO. TANABE
SAID GOJ WISHED TO HAVE FOLLOWING 3 ITEMS ON AGENDA:
WORDING OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOR 1978 EXTENSION, SETTING
OF LEVELS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES, AND TREATMENT OF
PERIOD AFTER EXTENSION EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1978.

2. WORDING OF NOTE. TANABE SAID THAT, REGARDING THE
CONSULTATION MECHANISM, TOKYO CANNOT AGREE THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 177027

FORMULA QUOTA PERIOD SHOULD EXTEND BEYOND DECEMBER 31,
IF CONSULTATION DOES NOT RESULT IN AGREEMENT. HE SAID
THAT CONSULTATION MECHANISM IN EARLIER AGREEMENTS ENDED
UPON TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT ITSELF; THIS EXTENSION
SHOULD DO LIKEWISE. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO TOKYO, THE
PERIOD OF A FORMULA QUOTA'S LIFE WAS NOT DISCUSSED
EXTENSIVELY IN HONOLULU NEGOTIATIONS; THE EXTENSIVE

DISCUSSION IN HONOLULU OVER A TIME PERIOD HAD ONLY

TO DO WITH THE PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH DATA MUST BE EXCHANGED.

3. ST. JOHN TOLD TANABE THAT THIS WAS ENTIRELY WRONG. THE FACT THAT A FORMULA QUOTA WOULD EXTEND BEYOND DECEMBER 31, 1978 WAS NEVER QUESTIONED BY EITHER SIDE IN HONOLULU. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A LENGTHY DISCUSSION AS TO PRECISELY WHEN THAT 12 MONTH PERIOD WOULD BEGIN (I.E. WOULD THE CLOCK BEGIN TICKING AT THE TIME OF CALL, AT THE TIME OF DISAGREEMENT AT END OF CONSULTATIONS, OR AT SOME PERIOD IN BETWEEN?). THE AGREEMENT WE REACHED WITH SAKAI ON THIS POINT WAS THAT THE 12 MONTH PERIOD BEGAN WITH THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE MONTH OF THE CALL; I.E. IF A CALL WAS MADE IN APRIL, THE 12 MONTH PERIOD

BEGINS IN MAY. WE SPECIFICALLY AGREED THAT THE EXTENSION SHOULD BE WORDED TO MAKE THIS CLEAR, WHERE PREVIOUS LANGUAGE HAD BEEN VAGUE. IT WAS RECOGNIZED BY BOTH SIDES THAT THIS WOULD BE A CHANGE--ALBEIT PROCEDURAL, RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE--IN THE AGREEMENTS BEING EXTENDED. TANABE SAID HE WOULD SO INFORM TOKYO.

4. SETTING OF LEVELS. TANABE NOTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY TOLD SMITH TOKYO WOULD EXPECT THE US SIDE TO PROPOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 177027

LEVELS FOR THE FEW CATEGORIES (219, 210 PT., ETC) WHICH STILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

5. TREATMENT OF POST-1978 PERIOD. TANABE SAID THAT TOKYO WOULD LIKE INFORMAL DISCUSSION IN JULY AS TO WHETHER WE WILL WANT AN AGREEMENT, AND IF SO WHAT KIND, AFTER DECEMBER 31. GOJ WOULD THEN WANT TO HOLD FORMAL CONSULTATIONS OR NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS REGARD SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER. THE EXACT DATE AND PLACE CAN BE DETERMINED DURING THE JULY TALKS.

6. TANABE ASKED IF THE TRILATERAL CONFERENCE WAS LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED IN ONE DAY; TOKYO WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR US AND GOJ TO TALK BILATERALLY. ST. JOHN SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE TRILATERAL DISCUSSION ON FRIDAY JULY 28, LEAVING AT LEAST HALF OF SATURDAY JULY 29 FOR BILATERAL MATTERS WITH JAPAN. HE NOTED THAT WE WOULD WANT TO LEAVE ABOUT HALF OF THAT DAY FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY AS WELL. HE POINTED OUT TO TANABE THAT DELEGATION WILL ARRIVE IN TOKYO 12 NOON THURSDAY JULY 27 SO THAT MOST OF THAT

AFTERNOON WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR BILATERAL TALKS, AS
WELL AS THE EVENING SHOULD GOJ DESIRE.

7. FOR TOKYO: PLEASE REITERATE SUBSTANCE OF PARA 3
ABOVE TO APPROPRIATE GOJ OFFICIALS. CHRISTOPHER

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